

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 4, 33-36 and 41-44 are amended for clarity.

Claims 45 and 46 are newly entered claims.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Due to the simplicity of the structure no drawings were, or are, considered necessary. In an effort to advance the application a drawing is submitted herewith. The drawing is supported by the specification and claim 1 and no new matters are raised.

The specification is amended to reference the drawing.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to.

The abstract is amended thereby rendering the objection moot.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 33-36 and 41-44 are objected to due to informalities.

Claims 1, 33-36 and 41-44 are amended thereby rendering the objections moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The objection to claim 4 is rendered moot by amendment. The rejection of claims 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 40 and 44 are due to the ultimate dependence on claim 4 and is therefore also rendered moot by the amendment of claim 4.

Claim 36 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The objection to claim 36 is rendered moot by amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873).

Kano et al. is cited as disclosing the stimulable phosphor screen. The Office correctly notes that Kano et al. fails to recite polymeric films containing polymers selected from the group consisting of silazane and siloxazane polymers, mixtures thereof and mixtures of silazane or siloxazane polymers with compatible film-forming polymers.

Benz et al. is cited as teaching that the polymeric film contains polymers selected from the group consisting of silazane and siloxazane type polymers.

The Office submits that it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to provide the known polymers of Benz et al. for the second transparent film in the screen of Kano et al. in order to have the desired properties of good abrasion and scratching resistance. Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regards to the siloxazane type polymers Applicants respectfully submit that Benz et al. does not teach this polymer. The Office has confused siloxane with siloxazane which is improper. The combination of Benz et al. and Kano et al. would not lead one of skill in the the art to the use of

siloxazane since this is neither taught nor suggested by the combined art.

Benz et al. does recite silazane yet one of skill in the art would avoid using this in the application of Kano et al. based on the teachings in the references.

Kano et al. is specific to two protective layers applied to a radiation image storage panel. The two layers are defined by their ability to regain moisture under certain conditions. If one of skill in the art were searching for alternate coatings for use in a radiation image storage panel they would be motivated to only consider layers which regain moisture based on the teachings of Kano et al. In particular the ability to regain moisture is temperature dependent thereby demonstrating chemical influence, thermal influence and the correlation therebetween.

Benz et al. is specific to a coating for an optical element such as a lens for eyeglasses. The coating applied to the lens is defined to permanently withstand chemical and thermally influences. One of skill in the art of coatings would immediately realize that a coating that permanently withstands chemical influences is not going to absorb chemicals since this is, by definition, contrary to the goal of withstanding chemical influence.

The Office has extracted the coating materials of Benz et al. which withstand chemical influences and applied that to Kano et al. which has predefined ranges of moisture absorption. Such a combination can only be envisioned in hindsight and, even then, one of skill in the art would be led away from such a combination since the properties of the coatings in Benz et al. are contrary to the desired properties of the coating in Kano et al.

Even in hindsight one of skill in the art would lack motivation for combining Kano et al. and Benz et al. The mere recitation of a coating is not sufficient motivation for the combination. Even if one attempted to derive a motivation from the fact that both references teach a coating this motivation would quickly dissipate in light of the clear teaching that Kano et al. recites a necessity for a certain level of moisture regain under certain thermal conditions whereas Benz et al. teaches permanently withstanding chemical and thermal influences. One of skill in the art would have no motivation for considering the teachings of Benz et al. except for that provided by hindsight reconstruction based on the instant teachings. Even based on hindsight one of skill in the art would expect the combination to be a failure since the chemical resistive nature of the coatings in Benz et al. would defeat the purpose of the coating as set forth in Kano et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. is improperly based on a hindsight reconstruction of art. Furthermore, the hindsight reconstruction is contrary to the teachings in the cited references. The rejection is therefore improper and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6, 10, 14, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Arakawa et al. (USP 4,863,826).

Kano et al. and Benz et al. have been discussed supra with regards to claim 1 and all comments are relevant herein as well.

The Office has correctly noted that Kano et al. lacks an explicit description of a subbing layer comprising a transparent film. Arakawa et al. is cited as providing those teachings which are otherwise lacking from the combination of Kano et al. and Benz et al. Even with the additional teachings of Arakawa et al. the combined references still would not lead one of skill in the art to the use of a coating capable of permanently withstanding chemical influence to replace a coating which is

specifically required to have a certain level of moisture regain.

Arakawa et al. does not mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references with which it is combined and therefore does not render the claims unpatentable for, at least, the same reasons stated above relative to claim 1.

The rejection of claims 2, 6, 10, 14, 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Arakawa et al. is improper due to the failure of the references to lead one of skill in the art to the coatings of claim 1 which are in the rejected claims by dependence. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Homme (US 2003/0160185).

Kano et al. and Benz et al. have been discussed supra with regards to claim 1 and all comments are relevant herein as well.

The Office has correctly noted that Kano et al. lacks an explicit description that the polymeric film comprises

polyparaxylene. Homme et al. is cited as providing those teachings which are otherwise lacking from the combination of Kano et al. and Benz et al. Even with the additional teachings of Homme et al. the combined references still would not lead one of skill in the art to the use of a coating capable of permanently withstanding chemical influence to replace a coating which is specifically required to have a certain level of moisture regain.

Homme et al. does not mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references with which it is combined and therefore does not render the claims unpatentable for, at least, the same reasons stated above relative to claim 1.

The rejection of claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Homme is improper due to the failure of the references to lead one of skill in the art to the coatings of claim 1 which are in the rejected claims by dependence. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 36, 40 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873) and

Arakawa et al. (USP 4,863,826) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Homme (US 2003/0160185).

Kano et al., Benz et al., Arakawa et al. and Homme have been discussed supra and all previous comments are relevant herein.

In summary, the combination of references fails to lead one of skill in the art to the specific coating recited in claim 1 and in these claims by ultimate dependence therefrom.

For, at least, the reasons set forth supra the rejection of claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 36, 40 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. and Arakawa et al. as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Homme is improper due to the failure of the cited art to lead one of skill in the art to the specific coating set forth in claim 1 and these claims by dependence therefrom.

Claims 25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873) as applied to claims 17 and 21 above and further in view of Karellas (USP 5,864,146).

Kano et al. and Benz et al. have been discussed supra and all comments are relevant here equally.

The Office correctly notes that Kano et al. lacks teachings wherein the imaging device is a CCD. Karellas is cited as providing these teachings which are otherwise lacking in the combined teachings.

Even with Karellas one of skill in the art would avoid utilizing the coating of Benz et al. in the panel of Kano et al. due to the expectation that the necessary step of moisture regain would be defeated. Eliminating the moisture regain is contrary to the teachings of Kano et al.

The rejection of claims 25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. as applied to claims 17 and 21 above and further in view of Karellas is improper due, at least, to the failure of the combined art to lead one of skill in the art to the specific coating layers of claim 1.

Claims 26 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. and Arakawa et al. as applied to claims 18 and 22 above, and further in view of Karellas et al.

Kano et al., Benz et al., Arakawa et al. and Karellas et al. have all been discussed previously and all comments presented supra are relevant herein.

In summary, Kano et al. and Benz et al. lead one away from the claimed invention and a rejection based thereon is therefore improper. Neither Arakawa et al. nor Karellas et al. mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references with which they are combined.

The rejection of claims 26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. and Arakawa et al. as applied to claims 18 and 22 above, and further in view of Karellas et al. is improper due, at least, to the failure of the cited art to lead a skilled artisan to the claimed invention.

Claims 27 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873) and Homme (US 2003/0160185) as applied to claims 19 and 23 above, and further in view of Karellas et al. (USP 5,864,146).

Kano et al., Benz et al., Homme and Karellas et al. have all been discussed previously and all comments presented supra are relevant herein.

In summary, Kano et al. and Benz et al. lead one away from the claimed invention and a rejection based thereon is therefore improper. Neither Hommes nor Karellas et al. mitigate the

deficiencies of the primary references with which they are combined.

The rejection of claims 27 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. and Homme as applied to claims 19 and 23 above, and further in view of Karellas et al. is improper due, at least, to the failure of the cited art to lead a skilled artisan to the claimed invention.

Claims 28 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873), Arakawa et al. (US 4,863,826) and Homme (US 2003/0160185) as applied to claims 20 and 24 above, and further in view of Karellas et al. (USP 5,864,146).

Kano et al., Benz et al., Arakawa et al., Homme and Karellas et al. have all been discussed previously and all comments presented supra are relevant herein.

In summary, Kano et al. and Benz et al. lead one away from the claimed invention and a rejection based thereon is therefore improper. Neither Arakawa, Homme nor Karellas et al. mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references with which they are combined.

The rejection of claims 28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al.,

Arakawa et al. and Homme as applied to claims 20 and 24 above, and further in view of Karellas et al. is improper due, at least, to the failure of the cited art to lead a skilled artisan to the claimed invention.

Claims 34, 38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. (USP 4,741,993) in view of Benz et al. (USP 4,830,873) and Arakawa et al. (US 4,863,826) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Homme (US 2003/0160185).

Kano et al., Benz et al., Arakawa et al. and Homme have all been discussed previously and all comments presented supra are relevant herein.

In summary, Kano et al. and Benz et al. lead one away from the claimed invention and a rejection based thereon is therefore improper. Neither Arakawa nor Hommes mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references with which they are combined.

The rejection of claims 34, 38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano et al. in view of Benz et al. and Arakawa et al. as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Homme is improper due, at least, to the failure of the cited art to lead a skilled artisan to the claimed invention.

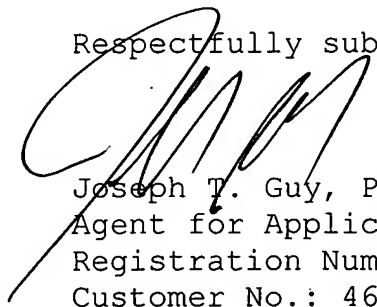
New Claims

Claims 45 and 46 are newly entered claims which are believed to be patentable over the art of record. Support for the claims is provided in original claim 1. No new matter is entered.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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